

The specification has been amended to overcome the objection by including reference to means for determining locations of pipeline wall stress. These means are well known in the relevant art and have been in use for at least 35 years. They include various configurations of odometer wheels for determining locations of defects in a pipeline, as well as feature recognition by sensors in a pipeline pig that are able to detect pipeline characteristics, such as pipeline girth welds, weld spacing, valves, taps, and branch connectors that are often documented on pipeline maps. Odometer wheels of precisely known diameters are attached to a pig and roll on the inner pipe surface. The wheels may contain sensors, such as magnetic pulsers or optical encoders that produce data related to the wheel angular rotation. This data is recorded by the pig along with pipeline wall defect data. Subsequent playback of the data produces distance information (length of pipeline from launch point) correlated to the defect information. All inspection pig vendors use odometer wheels of similar design. The use of pipeline feature recognition and odometer wheels for distance measurement is common knowledge in the pipeline inspection business and all vendors have used these tools for many years. Therefore, a brief reference to these well known techniques in the specification do not constitute addition of new matter.

Summary

Applicants have made a diligent effort to respond to the objections raised by the Office in the Office Action of August 8, 2005. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Douglas D. Russell, Applicants' Attorney at 512-338-4601, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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